

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093

February 18, 1998

In Reply Refer To:
6840 (CO-932) **P**

EMS Transmission 02/18/98
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-98-020
Expires: 9-30-98

To: District and Resource Managers, Colorado

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Services

Subject: Designating Animals and Plants as Colorado BLM Sensitive Species DD: 03/27/98

The recent change by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) makes it necessary to provide guidance on management of former federal category 1 and 2 candidate species to ensure the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to prevent endangerment of native species on public land. As of now, there is only one category, called Candidate, which corresponds to the former category 1 list of species. With this change in FWS policy, about 50% of the prior category 1 candidates (182) were brought forward as Candidate and all category 2 candidates were eliminated. The former category 1 and 2 lists have historically provided means to identify a majority of BLM Special Status Species and are incorporated into BLM policy, Manual 6840 - Special Status Species Management.

State Directors are responsible for establishing programs to determine which special status species (threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, BLM sensitive and stated-listed) occur on public land and how BLM actions affect them. Bureau policy remains that no action should be taken which would contribute to species becoming listed as candidate species through actions the BLM funds, authorizes, or carries out in its management actions. With the new FWS Candidate definition, early identification of BLM sensitive animal and plant species becomes very important in efforts to prevent species endangerment. Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 97-118 provides guidance for those states without a BLM sensitive plant and animal species list to institute one using the criteria in the 6840 manual.

To ensure that Colorado BLM continues to identify and manage species vulnerable to Endangered

Species Act listing, it is necessary to evaluate the former category 1 and 2 candidate species to determine if they warrant Colorado BLM sensitive species designation. Table 1 provides a proposed list of sensitive animal species developed from criteria determined in the 6840 manual and ranking status designated by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service, Region 2.

The current Colorado BLM sensitive plant species list is also being revised. Table 2 includes plants proposed to be added to the sensitive plant species list and Table 3 defines plants proposed to be dropped from the existing sensitive species list. Those plants being dropped are no longer considered rare and/or vulnerable. You are requested to provide comments, and your rational, on whether species are warranted for listing as sensitive, to be added or removed from the proposed animal and plant list. This feedback and any other comments or concerns you may have concerning the management of BLM sensitive species is important. Your response is requested by March 27, 1998. This is the first step in the overall review process. After external reviews are received from other state, federal, and conservation organizations, another field office review will be requested on the proposed sensitive species list.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Lee Upham, 303-239-3723 or Carol Spurrier, 303-239-3725.

Signed by
Frank Salwerowicz
Deputy State Director,
Resource Services

Authenticated by
Don Snow
EMS Operator

Attachment